

79. Loons *

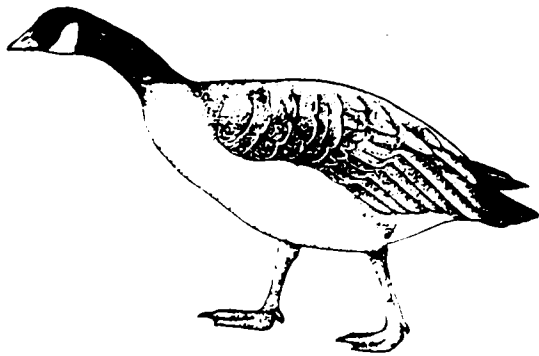
TRAITS: Large, long-bodied swimmers; dagger-like bills and webbed feet.

HABITAT: Ponds and lakes in tundra and forest areas

FOODS: Mainly small fish.

EATEN BY: Eggs and young are eaten by foxes, weasels, bears, and jaegers; young may also be eaten by northern pike.

"GEE WHIZ": Loons dive from the surface of water or sink to chase after fish; they are able to disappear quietly below the water surface, barely making a ripple.



80. Geese *

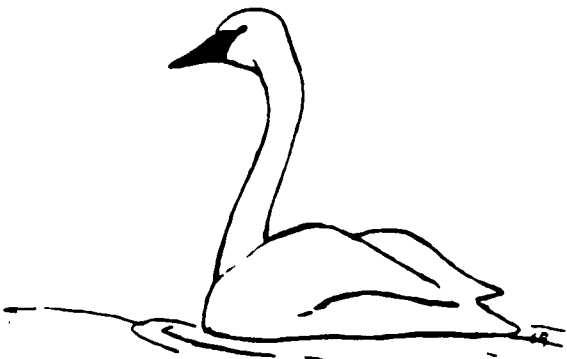
TRAITS: Large waterfowl; heavier-bodied and longer-necked than ducks; bill thick at base; noisy in flight, often flying in "V" formations.

HABITAT: Nests on islands and shores of lakes and estuaries particularly in lowland tundra.

FOODS: Leaves, stems, seeds, and roots of grasses, sedges, mosses, and aquatic plants; brant and emperor geese feed on eelgrass and algae in the winter.

EATEN BY: Eggs and young may be eaten by foxes or bears; humans.

"GEE WHIZ": In winter, migrate south to ice-free wetlands and coastal areas of North America.



81. Swans *

TRAITS: Very large, all-white waterfowl; long neck, all-black bill; species include the Tundra Swan and the Trumpeter Swan.

HABITAT: Forest wetlands, lakes, marshes, rivers with dense vegetation; coastal, lowland tundra.

FOODS: Grasses, sedges, aquatic plants.

EATEN BY: Eggs and young by bears, foxes; adults eaten by humans.

"GEE WHIZ": The Trumpeter Swan is the largest swan in the world, sometimes weighing as much as 40 pounds; 80% of the world's Trumpeter Swan population nests in Alaska.